

Appln No. 10/760,185
Amdt. Dated May 26, 2006
Response to Office Action of April 4, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of April 4, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is further amended to specify that the printhead assembly comprises at least one controller for processing print data and controlling the printhead integrated circuits to print the processed print data, where the cover portion covers the controller supported by the support frame. Support for this amendment can be found at page 18, lines 6-30, page 27, lines 8-9 and page 27, line 33-page 28, line 29 of the present specification;

dependent claims 2 and 6 are amended to conform with amended claim 1; and
dependent claims 3-5 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application because the subject matter claimed in the amended claims was fully discussed by the Applicant in the Reply to the previous Office Action.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook in view of Lin et al. (US 2004/0012661) and further in view of Watchko et al. (US 6,965,071) or Wakabayashi, for at least the following reasons.

It is noted that the rejection text indicates that dependent claims 4 and 5 are rejected under Silverbrook in view of Wakabayashi only, however this is not possible given the rejection of independent claim 1 under Silverbrook in view of Lin.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that the controller of the printhead assembly of the present invention is one which processes the print data to be printed by the printhead integrated circuits, not one which merely routes data to

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the printhead integrated circuits, as is the case with respect to the TAB films 22 and flexible PCB 54 disclosed by Silverbrook.

That is, as clearly disclosed at page 6, lines 4-11, page 9, lines 19-21, page 10, lines 13-14 of Silverbrook, the "flexible PCB 54 is a single sided component that supplies the TAB films 22 of each printhead module 12 with data connections through contact pads", "the flex PCB 54 terminates in the data connector 66" and "power and data connections are made to the flexible PCB 54" (emphasis added).

Thus, it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art from the disclosure of Silverbrook that the PCB 54 is merely a data and power connection for the printhead modules, similar to the flex PCB 80 of the present invention which connects power and data to the PCBs 52 of each printhead integrated circuit 51 (see page 7, lines 24-33 of the present specification), and not a controller which processes print data and routes this processed print data to printhead integrated circuits as required by amended independent claim 1.

Further, because the flex PCB 54 of Silverbrook is merely a data connection, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide covering and shielding of the flex PCB 54 by modifying the cover moldings 28 of the printhead modules 12 disclosed by Silverbrook in the manner asserted by the Examiner with regard to the disclosures of Lin, Watchko and Wakabayashi.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook either taken alone or in combination with Lin, Watchko and/or Wakabayashi.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

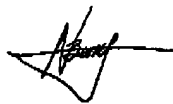
Very respectfully,

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